

globe to preserve democracy and promote freedom. But in our country, where every voice counts, our Nation's active duty leadership excludes the voice of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Congress must ensure the National Guard has appropriate input during the planning and budgetary process within the Department of Defense, and end the challenge to live with "after-the-fact" process, as is now the case.

As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau would have responsibility and authority to advocate and coordinate the Guard's warfighting support and force provider mission with its homeland security and support missions to ensure the Guard has the resources to perform its multiple missions and fulfill its Constitutional role to our states.

Creating a Veterans' preference in the Transportation sector is very simple. It seeks to give America's veterans an opportunity advantage in the contracting process for their service to our country—a means to attach importance and to acknowledge our fellow Americans who have put their life on the line to preserve our way of life.

Madam Speaker, from the battlefield to the home fields, our National Guard—America's patriots—exemplifies sacrifice and commitment to duty.

I urge my colleagues to vote for Guardians for Freedom Act of 2010—so that we may respectfully and gratefully fulfill our duty to support the original intent of our Constitution for each state to maintain an organized militia with integrity—and, effectively support and acknowledge the great sacrifice so many willingly make for all of us.

#### TRIBUTE TO ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GA AND THE NAVY SUPPLY CORPS SCHOOL

##### HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the exceptional partnership that has thrived for 57 years between the community of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, and the Navy Supply Corps School (NSCS).

For more than half a century, America's Supply Corps officers have viewed Athens as the birthplace of their careers. Before the school cast anchor in the southern college town of Athens, the institution resided in numerous locations, including Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Harvard University.

On June 4, 1953, the United States Navy purchased 58 acres of land in the Oglethorpe Historic District of Athens. The beautiful property held a rich history of education. Dating back to the 1860's, the property served as campus to Georgia University High School, the Confederate Military School, the School for Disabled Confederate Veterans, the University of Georgia's College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, the State Normal School, and Coordinate College. Its legacy of education continued with the commissioning of the Navy Supply Corps School on January 15, 1954.

The Athens community had established a rapport with the U.S. Navy prior to the

school's arrival. During World War II, Athens was home to one of only five naval preflight schools in the nation. For the past 57 years, the residents of Athens-Clarke County have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with NSCS. They have also benefitted from the quality of students who studied there and retired officers who have settled in the Athens area. Since 1954, NSCS has launched more than 89,000 officers into successful careers, and on October 29, 2010, approximately 81 more officers will graduate, the final class to complete their studies in Athens. This storied institution has remained in "The Classic City" longer than any other location, making Athens truly the "Cradle of the Supply Corps."

As the Navy Supply Corps School prepares to set sail for a new facility in Newport, Rhode Island, the Athens campus will continue in its heritage of higher learning by serving as home to the University of Georgia and Georgia Health Sciences University's new medical school.

Madam Speaker, I honor the Navy Supply Corps School for the tremendous service it has provided, not only to the community, but for the entire nation. I applaud the exceptional partnership that has existed over the last 57 years among the Navy school and Athens-Clarke County, Georgia.

#### CONGRATULATING LEO P. VERGNETTI ON BEING RECOGNIZED BY THE COLUMBUS DAY ASSOCIATION OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY AS MAN OF THE YEAR

##### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Leo P. Vergnetti, this year's recipient of the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County's "Man of the Year" award.

Mr. Vergnetti will be honored at the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County's 102nd annual banquet in Dickson City, Pennsylvania on October 10, 2010.

Mr. Vergnetti is a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Anthony and Angeline Vergnetti.

Since 1972 he has owned and operated LPV Enterprises, Inc., the sole food and beverage vendor in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport.

Since 1994, Mr. Vergnetti has been President of Vergnetti Consulting, Inc. He is also an agent with Northeast Insurance and Financial Consultants.

Throughout this career, Mr. Vergnetti has been dedicated to helping individuals suffering from drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. Since 1994 he has served as an Aftercare Coordinator and Counselor at Clear Brook, Inc., helping to organize intervention services and support groups with schools, churches and other community organizations.

He also serves as a liaison with the Lackawanna County Treatment Court, and has served on the Medical and Legal Advisory Board of the Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Commission for the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office.

In addition to his dedicated work with drug and alcohol addiction support services, Mr. Vergnetti has generously donated his time to numerous community and public service organizations throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society Ball of Hope, the Northeast Theater Group, the Arts and Cultural Commission of Lackawanna County, the Lackawanna County Council on Transportation, and the Lackawanna County Council on Economic Development.

Mr. Vergnetti currently resides in Scranton. He has nine children, fifteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Leo P. Vergnetti as the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County's Man of the Year. Throughout his career he has been dedicated to improving the quality of life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

#### HONORING MRS. MARIE BOUCHER

##### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Marie Boucher and to celebrate her 101st birthday.

Marie moved to Greenville, Maine with her husband Auguste Boucher in 1951, and she has been the oldest citizen of Greenville since 2006. She is a proud mother and grandmother with eight children, twenty-eight grandchildren, fifty-one great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

Marie is well known throughout Greenville for her gracious hospitality and prowess in the kitchen. She not only cooked for her large family, but also made sure the woodsmen who worked with her husband were well fed after their long days in the Maine woods. For several years, she took her cooking skills to the kitchen at the Log Cabin Restaurant, and Marie has remained active in her community throughout her life as a long time parishioner of Holy Family Church.

As an exemplary member of the Greenville community, Marie is an asset not only for her town but also her state, and she celebrates her birthday surrounded by family and friends.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Marie Boucher for her contributions and in celebrating her birthday.

#### BIRTH DEFECT PREVENTION, RISK REDUCTION, AND AWARENESS ACT

##### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, one out of every 33 babies born in our country suffers from a birth defect, and one out of every five infant deaths in America is the result of a defect. Even those children who survive a defect grow up with a greater chance of illness and long-term disability. Perhaps most tragic of all, there are many times when these defects could be readily prevented.